

Appl. No. 08/851,832
Amld. dated November 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 7, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 2 ~~8~~ wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said canister is removably received in a recess in the housing.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said tube is fitted as an interference fit into an interior portion of said porous pad.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 5 wherein said pad comprises a polymer foam having interconnecting cells.

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Claim 7 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said foam is a polyether reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;

at least one bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump; and

an elastomeric film dressing for securing said porous pad within said sealable space, wherein said dressing is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (canceled).

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Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;

a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound, said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;

a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;

said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;

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a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 4 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 16 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor being arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 4 8 further comprising a sensor for detecting variance greater than a predetermined angle of said canister's vertical axis.

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Claim 19 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said predetermined angle is approximately 45°.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sensor comprises a tilt sensor, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said canister greater than said predetermined angle is detected.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 20 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure resultant resulting from detection of tilting of said canister.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 22 wherein said pad comprises a reticulated foam having at least 95% interconnecting cells.

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Claim 24 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 13 further comprising a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 8 13 further comprising a tilt sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said tilt sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when tilting of said combination beyond said predetermined angle is detected.

Claim 26 (canceled).